



## STATE OF WASHINGTON

December 21, 2016

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman-elect Jayapal:

On behalf of our state, we are writing to ask that you vote *against* repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which would be catastrophic for our state – resulting in the loss of health coverage and financial hardship for hundreds of thousands of Washingtonians, the destabilization of our health insurance marketplace and significant harm to our state budget and economy.

Furthermore, we are deeply concerned by GOP congressional leaders' stated intent to repeal the ACA without first identifying any replacement policies to ensure affordable health care access for millions of Americans who would lose their coverage.

We understand that people feel strongly about the ACA, but the enormous benefits it has provided to our state are undeniable. For example, in the two counties within your district alone, up to 231,300 adults and children have found coverage through Medicaid, and as many as 49,500 people have been provided assistance in affording their health care through either a tax credit, cost-sharing subsidy or both.

Under the ACA, more than 750,000 Washingtonians have been able to enroll in new health coverage through the Apple Health (Medicaid) program and private health plans offered through the Washington Health Benefit Exchange. Over 60 percent of these people are in working families. Our uninsured rate has dropped from 14 percent to an unprecedented 5.8 percent, and our uncompensated care costs have fallen 50 percent from \$2.3 billion to \$1.2 billion.

Another result of the ACA, Washington has added 51,000 jobs and our GDP has increased by more than \$2.7 billion. We are now making significant improvements in mental health and substance use treatment, with bipartisan support. We are moving our purchasing to value-based payments. And, we've also been able to cut state expenditures and increase state revenue. All of these gains could be lost if the ACA is repealed or undermined.

As you know, earlier this month, the leaders of the Republican Conference in the U.S. House of Representatives sent a letter to all governors and insurance commissioners asking for their input on the ACA and federal health care policy. Enclosed you will find the letter that we sent in

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal

December 21, 2016

Page 2

response. Also enclosed are two fact sheets outlining what is at risk for the people in our state and your district, if the ACA is repealed (available online via the links below):

- [http://www.ofm.wa.gov/healthcare/ACA\\_impacts.pdf](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/healthcare/ACA_impacts.pdf)
- [http://www.ofm.wa.gov/healthcare/ACA\\_impacts\\_charts.pdf](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/healthcare/ACA_impacts_charts.pdf)

The ACA has helped to improve the health of Washingtonians and our state's economy. Unfortunately, the ACA has become a subject of partisan divide and deep ideological disagreement. While opponents of the ACA have been arguing to "repeal and replace" the law for the last six years, they have not offered any viable alternatives, nor sought to amend or improve upon the law.

Now, the path proposed by congressional leaders – to immediately repeal the ACA, and defer replacing it until a later time – will cause immense harm to Washington's families. It would deprive successful policies and programs of the funding needed to maintain them, and would force Congress to raise taxes in the future in order to ensure health coverage – something we are certain you do not want to do.

We cannot jeopardize the health and well-being of residents in every region of this state, the stability of the insurance market, or the viability of rural hospitals and economies. Repealing the ACA puts people, economies, institutions and markets at risk, and removes the federal resources necessary to ensure coverage for all of our people.

On behalf of our state, we ask for your support to ensure that Washingtonians retain their health coverage. Please do not vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Very truly yours,



Jay Inslee  
Governor



Mike Kreidler  
Insurance Commissioner

Enclosures